



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL
MARCH/APRIL 2007**

Fisheries managed by the State of Alaska since the last council report includes those for salmon, crab, and groundfish.

Salmon Troll Fishery (FIGURE 1)

The Southeast Alaska/Yakutat winter troll fishery for chinook salmon began October 1, 2006 and will be open through April 30, 2007 or until 45,000 treaty chinook salmon are harvested, (the 2001–2005 average harvest is 41,241 fish). The fishery is confined to waters east of the "winter boundary line" and includes waters of Yakutat Bay. To date the catch is approximately 12,000 chinook salmon. Average weights are showing a good increase and are now above the 5-year average. Price is the highest on record for the season. Catches around the Sitka area have picked up substantially. When compared to the recent 5-year average for this period, the catch is just over half that amount. Nevertheless, over the past three years, a quarter of the entire winter catch has been harvested in the last 7 - 10 days of the fishery, when weather and fish seem to cooperate.

Catch distribution is somewhat different this year with a higher proportion of the harvest being taken in the southern end of the region.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab (FIGURE 2)

The 2006/07 Area O (Aleutian Islands) commercial golden king crab fishery opened Tuesday, August 15, 2006 and will close at 11:59 PM on Tuesday, May 15, 2007 for Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ), Community Development Quota (CDQ) and the Adak Community Allocation (ACA) fisheries. A total allowable catch (TAC) of 5.7 million pounds is established for the golden king crab fishery. The TAC is apportioned east (3.0 million pounds) and west (2.7 million pounds) of 174° W Longitude.

Five vessels registered to participate in the eastern fishery and fully harvested (2.7 million pounds) the IFQ TAC in 32 deliveries. There are two vessels currently fishing in the west, and according to the NMFS website, the western IFQ TAC harvest has taken approximately 73 percent of their total (1.8 million pounds). There have been 26 deliveries in that fishery and fishing continues.

Bering Sea Snow Crab (FIGURE 3)

The 2006/07 snow crab total allowable catch (TAC) is 32.9 million pounds for the IFQ fleet and about 3.66 million pounds for CDQ fishermen.

The 2006/07 Bering Sea snow crab fishery opened October 15, 2006 and will remain open through May 15, 2007 in the Eastern Subdistrict and through May 31, 2007 in the Western Subdistrict. To date approximately 22.6 million pounds (69% of total IFQ TAC) of snow crab have been harvested, and 30 boats remain out fishing.

Bering Sea Tanner Crab (FIGURE 4)

The Bering Sea District Tanner crab stock is managed east and west of 166° W Longitude, with a separate total allowable catch (TAC) for each area. The 2006/07 Bering Sea District Tanner crab TACs for the IFQ fleet were established at 1.69 million pounds east, and 0.98 million pounds west of 166° W Longitude. Fishermen targeting CDQ crab have TACs set at 0.90 million pounds east and 0.53 pounds west of 166° W Longitude. Approximately 60 percent (1.6 million pounds) of the total IFQ TAC has been harvested to date. The fishery opened on October 15, 2006 and will remain open through March 31, 2007.

Central Region Pacific Cod (FIGURE 5)

Prince William Sound

The Prince William Sound state managed Pacific cod season opened on March 6, 2007, which was seven days after the close of the federal fishery. The GHL had been set at 910,730 pounds, which was calculated as 10 percent of the federal Eastern Gulf ABC. No effort has occurred in this fishery to date.

Cook Inlet

The Cook Inlet state managed Pacific cod season opened on February 28, 2007, which was 24 hours after the close of the federal fishery. The GHL had been set at 3,131,088 pounds. That GHL is calculated as 3.75 percent of the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for the federal Central Gulf of Alaska area. Like many areas of Alaska, the Southcentral region has been enduring bad weather for several weeks. The harbor in Homer is frozen, and heavy, freezing spray has preempted most attempts at fishing. To date 6 pot vessels have made 14 landings totaling 245,000 pounds of Pacific cod.

Westward Region Pacific Cod (FIGURE 6)

Kodiak Pacific Cod (FIGURE 7)

For the Kodiak area, the GHL is 10.43 million pounds, which is 12.5 percent of the Central Gulf of Alaska ABC. The GHL is allocated 50 percent to mechanical jig and hand troll gears and 50 percent to pot gear. The fishery opened on March 6, 2007, which was 7 days after the close of the federal fishery. There are 31 pot fishermen and 15 jig fishermen registered at this time. Extremely poor weather in the area has slowed efforts. Landings are just over 50,000 pounds at this time.

Chignik Pacific Cod (FIGURE 8)

The Chignik area Pacific cod season opened by regulation on March 1, 2007. The GHL is 7.3 million pounds, which is calculated as 8.75 percent of the Central Gulf of Alaska ABC. The GHL is split to allow pot fishermen 90 percent of the quota. Ten pot vessels are currently registered to participate. Catch to date is just over 150,000 pounds despite extremely poor weather conditions in the area.

South Alaska Peninsula Pacific Cod (FIGURE 9)

The GHL is 14.8 million pounds, which is 25 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska ABC. The harvest is allocated 85 percent to pot gear and 15 percent to jig gear. This fishery opened on March 15, 2007, which was 7 days after the closure of the federal fishery in the western Gulf. At the time this report was prepared, there were a dozen pot vessels and one jig vessel registered to participate. Most remain in harbor due to poor weather.

Aleutian Islands Pacific Cod (FIGURE 10)

The state-waters Pacific cod season in the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W longitude opened to commercial fishing on Friday, March 16, 2007, which was 4 days after the close of the federal fishery. In state waters of the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W longitude, when the state-waters season is open the parallel season is closed. There were twenty-nine vessels registered to participate. Seven vessels used pot gear, while the remaining 22 vessels were trawlers. Of those

trawlers, seven were 58 foot in length. The 2007 state-waters season guideline harvest level (GHL), based on 3% of the final BSAI ABC of 176,000 mt., was 11,640,288 pounds. The fishery was managed so that a maximum of 70% of the GHL (8,148,202 pounds) would be available for harvest prior to June 10, 2007. The remaining 30% of the GHL (3,492,086 pounds) plus any rollover from the first season will be available beginning June 10, 2007. Pacific cod in the state-waters season may only be taken with groundfish pots, mechanical jigging machines, longline, non-pelagic trawl, and hand troll gear. Pot vessels may not be greater than 125 feet overall length. Non-pelagic trawl vessels may not be greater than 100 feet in overall length and longline and mechanical jigging machine vessels may not exceed 58 feet in overall length.

In Sitkin Sound, near Adak Island, the vessel size limit was not in effect for the duration of this fishery.

All Steller sea lion closures, Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area closures, and coral garden closures that are in effect during the parallel season remained closed in the state-waters season.

The daily harvest limit for each vessel was 150,000 pounds round weight, with a maximum of 150,000 pounds of unprocessed Pacific cod onboard a vessel. All Pacific cod taken must be retained, and any overage must be immediately reported to the department, with proceeds from the overage forfeited to the state. Bycatch limits that applied in the parallel groundfish season applied in the state-waters season.

Based on catch reports received through 8:00 a.m. March 23, 2007 the total Pacific cod harvest was 7.4 million pounds and at that catch rate that portion of the guideline harvest level (GHL) available prior to June 10 (8.15 million pounds) would be met by 2:00 p.m. March 23, 2007. Therefore, the fishery closed at that time. The remaining 30% of the total state-waters season GHL (3.49 million pounds) plus any unharvested portion of the GHL remaining from the A season will be available beginning June 10, 2007.

Southeast Groundfish (FIGURE 11)

In the Pacific cod fishery, there has been 207,000 pounds landed in the 2007 Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) directed fishery to date.

The directed fishery for demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) closed in NSEI and Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) on March 9, 2007. Total harvest resulted from one very small landing reported in NSEI, and that was actually bycatch in the Pacific cod fishery.

Bycatch of lingcod is open in the longline fishery. Only a small amount has been landed in the Pacific cod fishery to date, however lingcod bycatch will increase now that IFQ season has opened.

In the Black rockfish fishery, there have been no landings at this time.

Alaska Board of Fisheries

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) met in Anchorage from March 9-12, 2007 to discuss several supplemental proposals. One of these, proposal 259 was a Board generated proposal to adopt both gear and area closures for Essential Fish Habitat. That proposal passed 7-0.

Action from the February BOF meeting still pending:

Proposal 182 – Increase the state waters Pacific cod GHL. Tabled until the Joint Protocol Committee meeting.

Proposal -185 – Prohibit participation of vessels greater than 58 foot LOA in the parallel Pacific cod fisheries. Tabled until the Joint Protocol Committee meeting.

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Report to the NPFMC
Agenda Item B - 4**



March/April 2007

2007 Winter Troll Chinook Salmon Fishery Update

Data for February 18-24 (Week 8)

Updated March 12

Troll Year	Permits Fished	Landings	Number	Catch per Landing	Avg. Price	Avg. Wt (lbs)	Catch through WK 8
2007	73	95	795	8.4	\$8.68	14.9	11,982
2006	125	175	1,109	6.3	\$7.73	13.4	19,005
5-year ave	100	160	1,365	7.7	\$6.03	14.3	20,858

Figure 1.

2007 Winter Troll Chinook Harvest

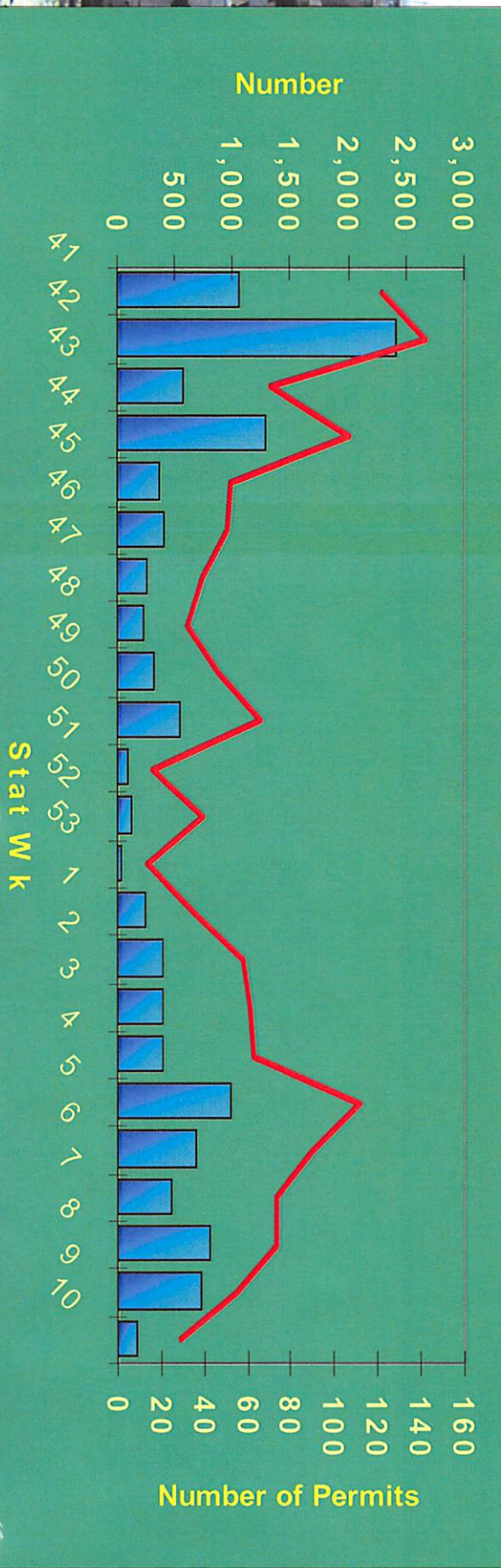


Figure 2.

Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab

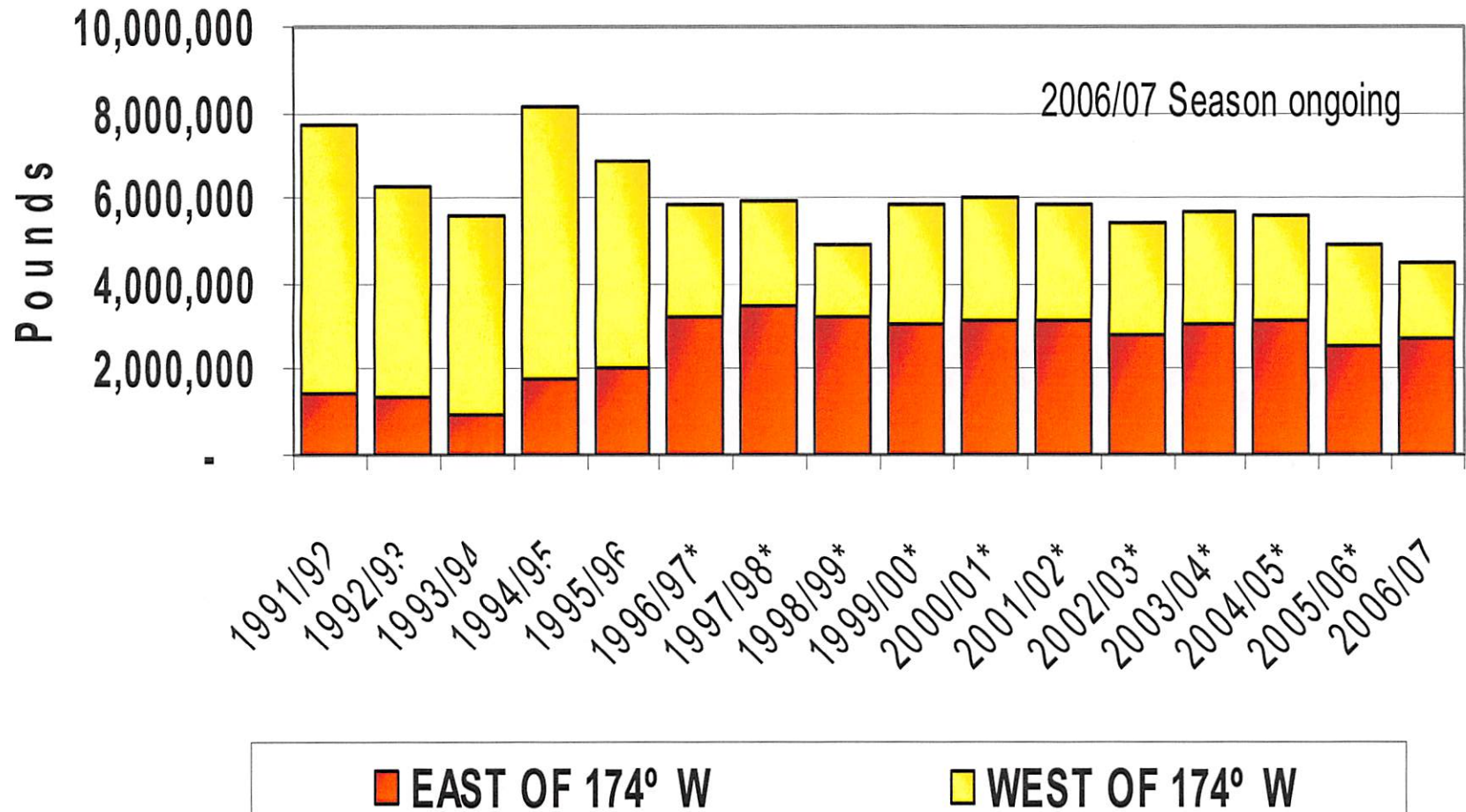


Figure 3

Snow Crab Harvest (2006/07 IFQ only)

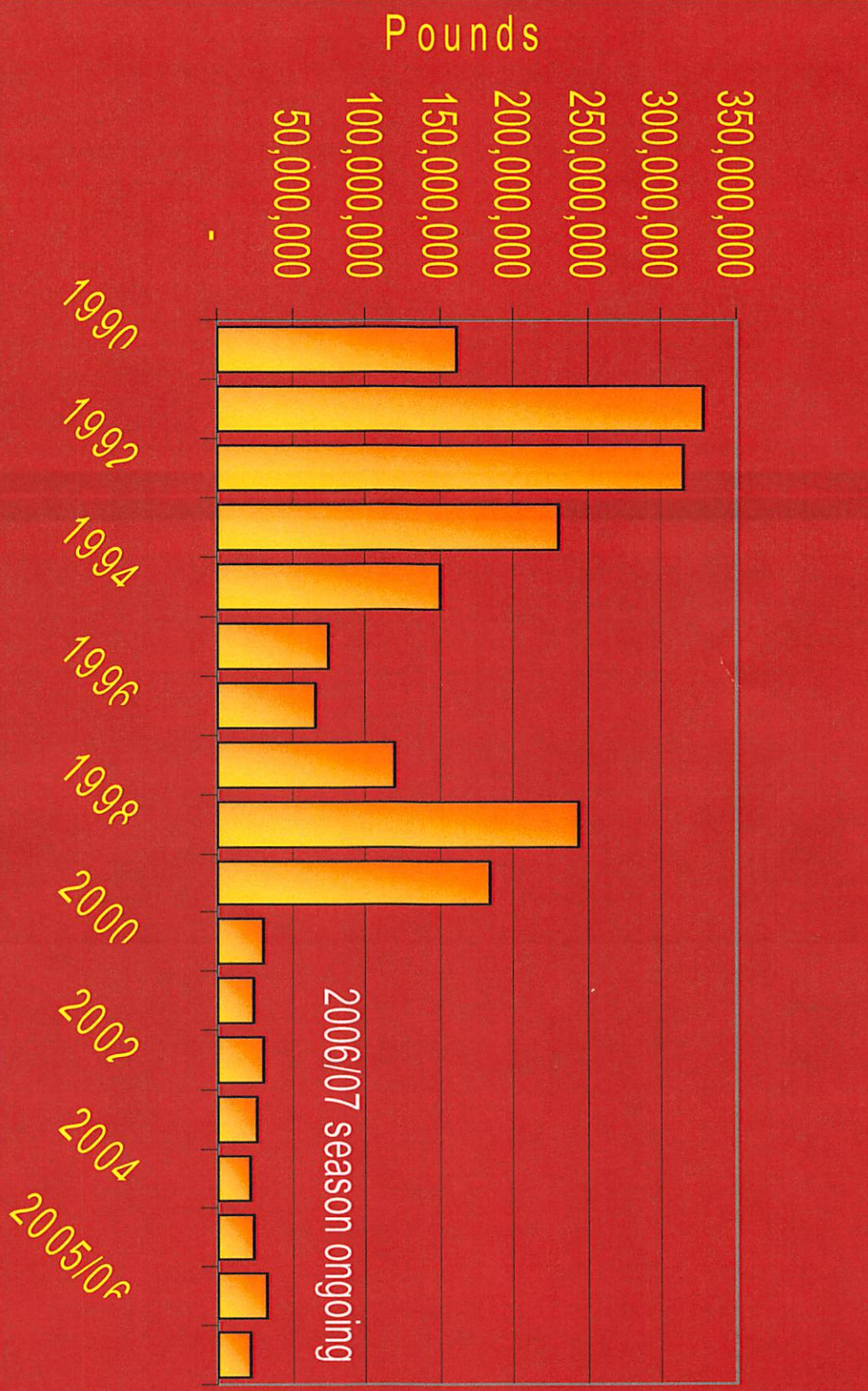


Figure 4.

2006/07 C. bairdi Harvest

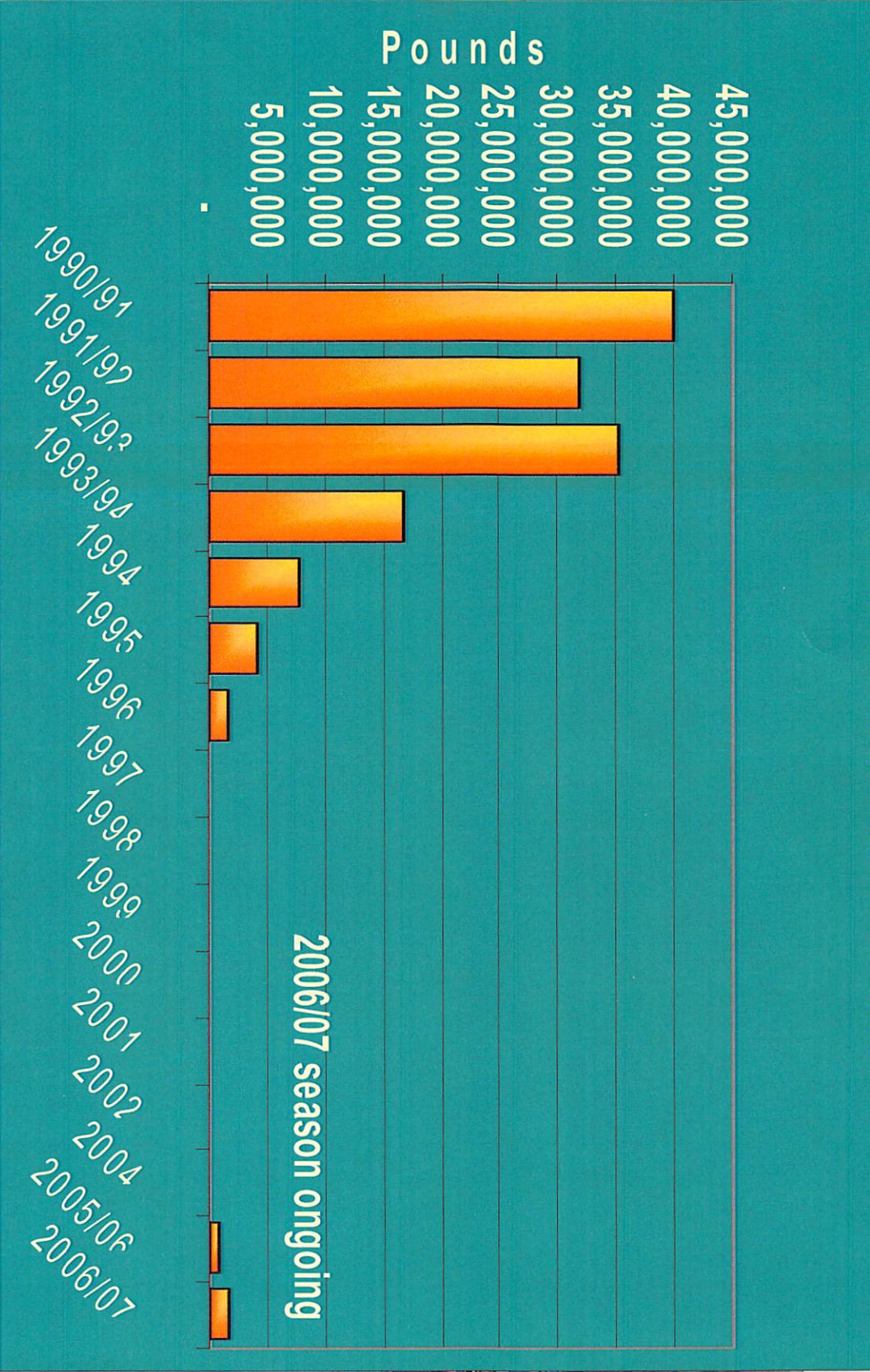


Figure 5. Harvest guideline, effort, and catch reported for state water fisheries through March 15, 2007.

This summary has been censored for *CONFIDENTIAL* reports or records.

Pacific Cod		PARALLEL SEASON - STATE WATERS					
		Cook Inlet Management Area			Prince William Sound		
Gear		Vessels	Landings	Pounds	Vessels	Landings	Pounds
Hand troll		0	0	0	0	0	0
Jigs		0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawl		0	0	0	0	0	0
Longline		6	40	177,283	2	<i>confidential</i>	<i>confidential</i>
Pots		7	72	284,660	0	0	-
Totals		13	112	461,943	2	<i>confidential</i>	<i>confidential</i>
Status		Bycatch			Bycatch		
Federal seasons:		Directed Opened - Closed			Directed Opened - Closed		
Central Gulf		Jan 1 - noon Feb 27			Jan 1 - noon Feb 27		

Parallel season concurrent with federal waters of the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA).

Totals include Pacific Cod bycatch to other directed fisheries e.g. halibut & sablefish.

Pacific Cod		*STATE MANAGED - STATE WATERS					
		*Cook Inlet Management Area			*Prince William Sound		
GHL (lb)		3,131,088			910,730		
Gear		Vessels	Landings	Pounds	Vessels	Landings	Pounds
Jigs		0	0	0	0	0	0
Pots < 58'		4	10	60,594	0	0	0
Pots > 58'		2	4	184,735	0	0	0
Totals		6	14	245,329	0	0	0
State seasons:		Opened - Closed			Opened - Closed		
State seasons:		noon Feb 28 -			noon March 6 -		
Jigs		Open			Open		
*Status		Opened - Closed			Opened - Closed		
Pots		noon Feb 28 -			noon March 6 -		
*Status		Open			Open		

*The state managed fishery for Pacific cod opens by emergency order to pot and jig gear under exclusive area registration 24 hours after the Federal closure in Cook Inlet and 7 days in PWS.

Includes only directed fishery harvest.

Gear and vessel restrictions are not in effect after Sept 1.



Figure 6.

2007 STATE MANAGED GROUND FISH

UPDATED: 3/12/07

PRELIMINARY PACIFIC COD HARVEST BY FISHERY WEEK



		KODIAK			CHIGNIK			SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA		
Vessel Registration		Total	Pot	Jig	Total	Pot	Jig	Total	Pot	Jig
Current		46	31 ^f	15	10	10	0	13	12	1
Overall		46	2 31 ²³	15	10	10	0	13	12	1

2006 GH L	10.43 Million Pounds	7.30 Million Pounds	14.80 Million Pounds
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ALLOCATIONS:	50% Jigs, 50% Pots	90% Pots, 10% Jigs	85% Pots, 15% Jigs
	Pots >58' restricted to 25% of total GH L before Sept. 1.	Fishery opened 3/1/06 12:01am	
	Jigs = 5.21 million, Pots = 5.21 million, >58' pots 2.60 before Sept.1	Pots = 6.57 million Jigs = .73 million	Pots = 12.58 million Jigs = 2.22 million

DATES:	Pots		Jigs		Pots		Jigs		Pots		Jigs	
	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch
	Fishery opens 3/6/07 at 12 Noon				Fishery Opens 3/1/07 at 12 Noon				Fishery Opens 3/15/07 at 12 Noon			
2/25-3/3/07	0	0	0	0	3	Confidential	0	0	0	0	0	0
3/4-3/10/07	5	51,419	0	0	4	151,196	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACCUMULATIVE CATCH	5	51,419	0	0	7	151,196	0	0	0	0	0	0
	(Total combined)		51,419		(Total combined)		151,196		(Total combined)		0	

CONFIDENTIAL = less than 4 boats; data combined with following week

Figure 7.

Kodiak State Managed Pacific Cod Harvests, 2007

DATES:	Pots		Jigs	
	Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch
	Fishery opens 3/6/07 at 12 Noon			
2/25-3/3/07	0	0	0	0
3/4-3/10/07	5	51,419	0	0
ACCUMULATIVE	5	51,419	0	0
CATCH	(Total combined)		51,419	

Figure 8.

Chignik State Managed Pacific Cod Harvests, 2007

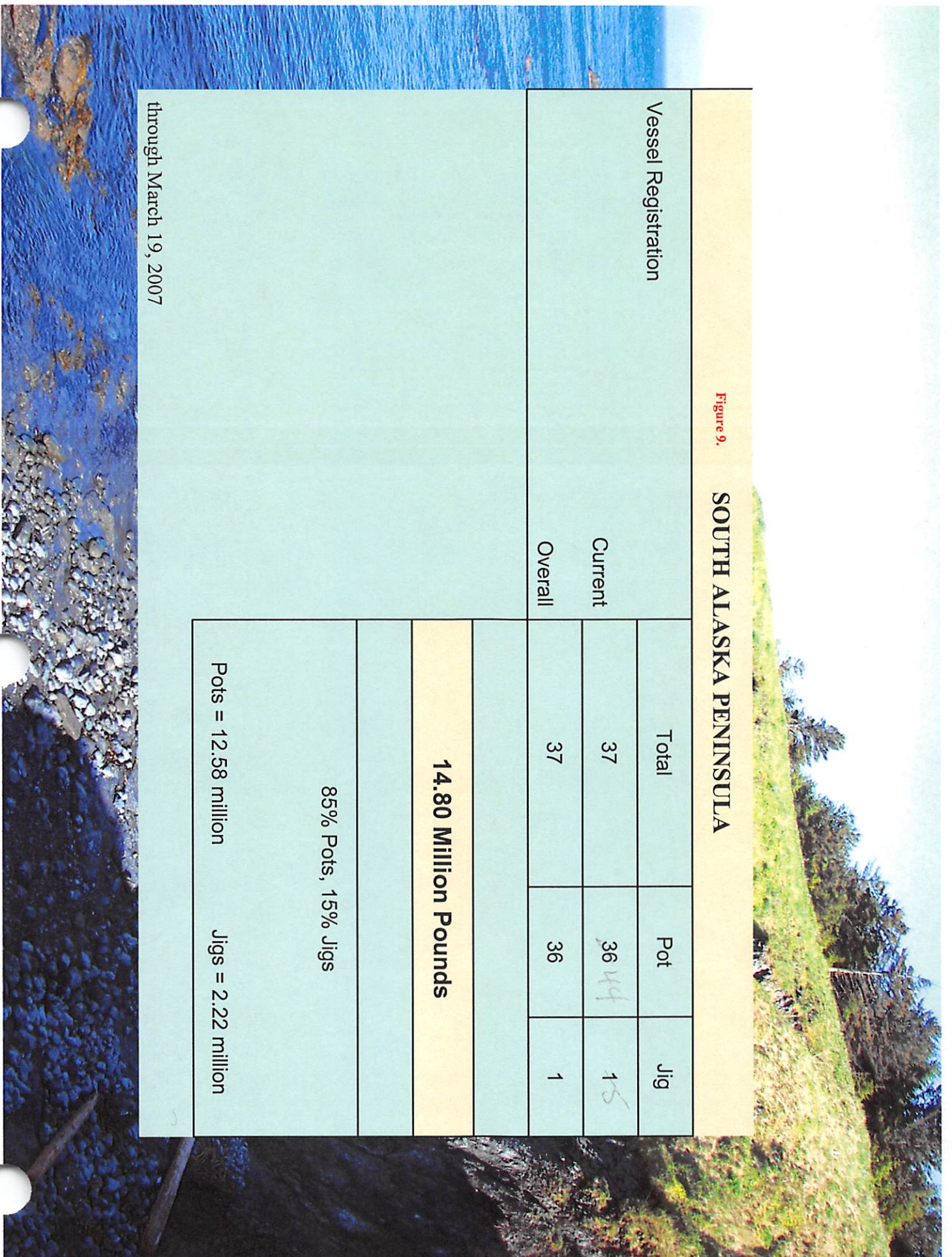
Pots		Jigs	
Landings	Catch	Landings	Catch
Fishery Opened 3/1/07 at 12 Noon			
3	<i>Confidential</i>	0	0
4	151,196	0	0
7	151,196	0	0
(Total combined)		151,196	

Figure 9.

SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA

Vessel Registration	Current	Overall	Total	Pot	Jig
			37	36	15
			37	36	1
14.80 Million Pounds					
85% Pots, 15% Jigs					
			Pots = 12.58 million	Jigs = 2.22 million	

through March 19, 2007





Aleutian Islands (West of 170° W Long) State Managed Pacific Cod

Figure 10.

Opened March 16, 2007 - Closed March 23, 2007

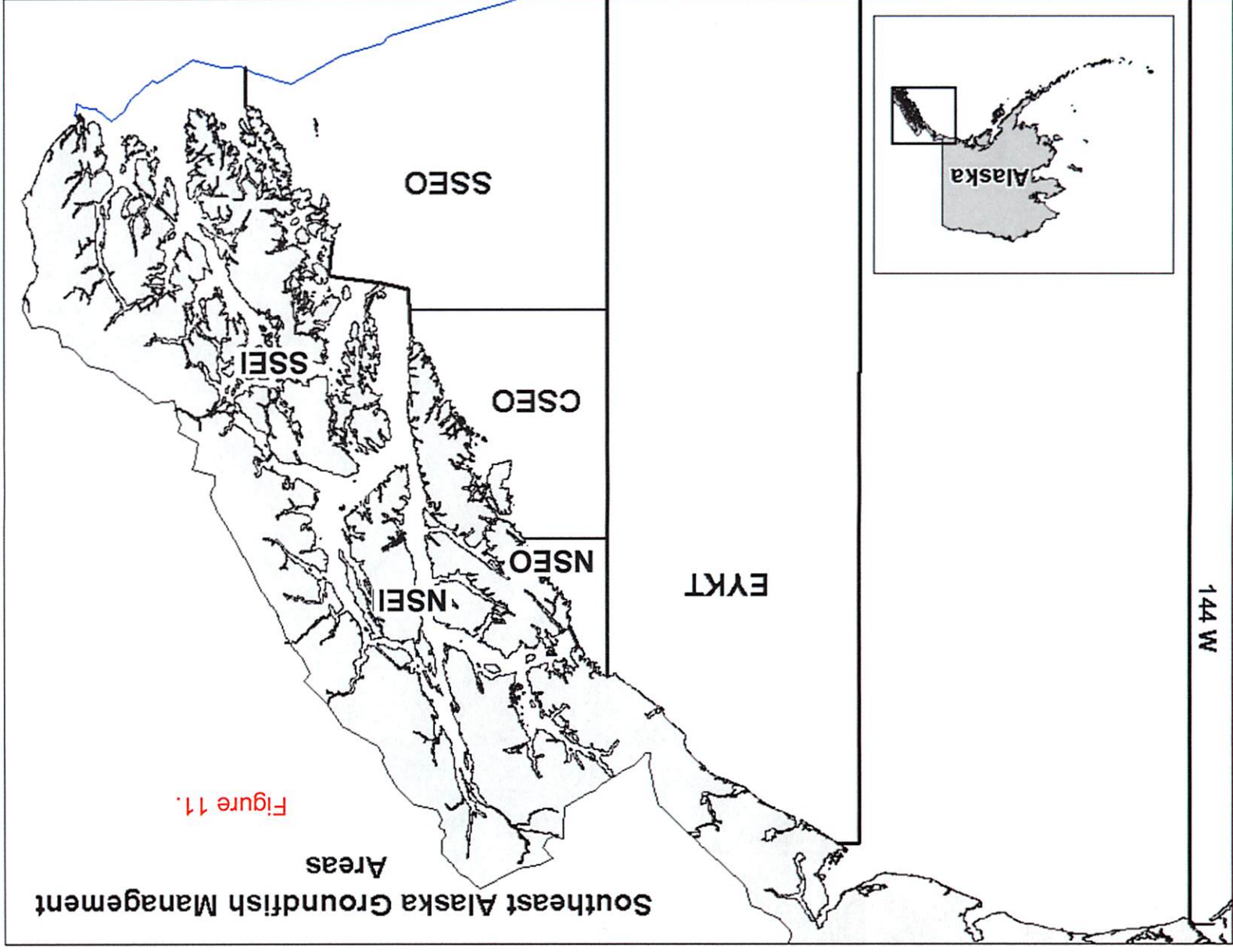
GH - 11.6 million pounds (70% available prior to June 10, 2007)

Gear - groundfish pots, mechanical jigging machines, longline, non-pelagic trawl, and hand troll gear

Pot vessels may not be greater than 125 feet overall length.

Non-pelagic trawl vessels may not be greater than 100 feet in overall length

Longline and mechanical jigging machine vessels may not exceed 58 feet in overall length.



Southeast Alaska Groundfish Management Areas

Figure 11.

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES, RECENT ACTION

- Proposal 259, EFH – **PASSED**
- Proposal 182, State Pcod – **Deferred to Joint Protocol meeting**
- Proposal 185, 58' vessel length – **Deferred to Joint Protocol meeting**



END

